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EDITORIAL

A Century of Restless Progress

This issue of CALIFORNIA MEDICINE is largely devoted to commemorating the Centennial of the Sacramento Society for Medical Improvement and its distinguished contributions to the promotion "of the art and science of medicine and the advancement of the public health" in the course of a hundred years. During this time California has grown to become the most populous state in the Union. Though bawdiness and lawlessness may have somewhat diminished, restlessness, innovation and enterprise are still everywhere in the air. Much persists that smacks of the frontier. In many ways the eyes of the nation are just as much on California today as they were a hundred years ago.

The articles to be found elsewhere in this issue reflect the past, present and future, not only of the Sacramento Society for Medical Improvement, but of California medicine as a whole. The Sacramento physicians who wrote these articles are clearly the energetic descendants of their forebears they describe, and also proud examples of the drive and sophistication which distinguishes the medical profession throughout California. The editors thank these special contributors and particularly acknowledge the tireless effort of Dr. Edmund E. Simpson of Sacramento for his work in preparing this "Sacramento issue" of CALIFORNIA MEDICINE. We join with all California physicians to wish the Sacramento Society for Medical Improvement another century of restless progress.

Sacramento Society for Medical Improvement: The Centennial

ON 17 MARCH 1868, 12 Sacramento physicians met at 46 J Street to form the Sacramento Society for Medical Improvement. The model for this name was said to have been the Boston Society for Medical Improvement. There had been earlier societies in Sacramento. The first medical society in California, the Medico-Chirurgical Association of Sacramento, was founded in 1850. That organization disbanded after four or five years. The Sacramento Medical Society was formed in 1855 and lasted until 1863. The Sacramento County Pathological Society, which began life in 1858, died in infancy. The present Society has been in continuous existence since its inception.

To be one hundred years old is good reason to examine whence we came and whither tending. The Sacramento Society has a rich background. The CALIFORNIA STATE JOURNAL OF MEDICINE first appeared in July 1856. It was printed at the plant of the Sacramento Union. The first railroad hospital was built here. The Sacramento Board of Health, the second in the United States, was formed three months after the first was founded in Boston. Through the influence of Sacramento physicians came the first State Board of Health. The *Sacramento Medical Times* was started in 1887 and at that time was said to be the best of the medical journals in California in content, style and format.